

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2023

10AM TO 12.30PM

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET FULFORD

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 26 March 2022 pertaining to the calendar year 2021.
4. Membership Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Website and Social Media Report
7. Chairman's Report
8. Election of the Steering Committee (up to 10 members)
9. Election of the Chairman and Treasurer (including appointment of a members to review the annual accounts)
10. Outline of meetings and events planned for 2023.
11. Any other business for the AGM
12. Close of the AGM

Short Break

At approximately 11am there will be a presentation by Ian Drake from YAYAS about *LIFE IN YORK 100 YEARS AGO. An illustrated talk on photographs from the Hanstock Collection.*

Refreshments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

It is a pleasure to be chair of this vibrant, energetic, and friendly local history society.

I begin my second chairman's report with heart-felt gratitude to the steering committee, members and non-member supporters who have been instrumental in carrying the society through the challenges of lockdown, partial lockdown and back (cross-fingers) to normal life. We could not operate at all without ALL of you.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

1. For willingly adhering to booking ahead, wearing masks and social distancing when required.
2. For coming out and joining in and conversing with each other, making newcomers feel welcome.
3. For researching topics far and wide and producing flyers, brochures, books and displays.
4. For meeting with neighbours and members to share information and interpret deeds.
5. For reaching out to other community groups and sharing knowledge and information
6. For giving talks and doing the copious research needed to compile power-point presentations
7. For learning the background needed to guide walks around local streets, the campus or open spaces.
8. For helping at meetings, taking admissions, making coffee, serving refreshments and washing up.
9. For taking the initiative to publish reports, organise conferences and seminars and fund-raise.
10. And a special thanks to the treasurer for keeping the accounts, to the 'web master' for updating our website and face-book pages; and to the rest of the steering committee for serving with such good will, good sense and fore-thought to help ensure the long-term future of the society.

LINKS WITH THE CITY OF YORK COUNCIL AND FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL

We have been very fortunate over the years, to be able to raise funds for particular purchases, and the City of York Council has often provided a grant from either Fishergate- or Fulford Ward. We are grateful for their financial support, and in 2022 we received £330 towards the costs of a new digital projector.

We also, under the initiative of Judy Nicholson, were able to donate a large, framed photograph of the 1908 Fulford Show Committee to Fulford Parish Council. It is to be displayed in Fulford Social Hall; and the parish council have ordered an engraved plaque to be placed underneath to commemorate our donation.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE or CHAIRMAN

As you can see from the above, our local history events require team effort . We are always hoping for people to step forward to join the steering committee or do some research or give a talk or organise a display. PLEASE LET US KNOW! Our AGM is a chance for YOU to step forward to help but also for you to NOMINATE SOMEONE to join the committee OR to elect as CHAIRMAN.

REVIEW OF EVENTS 2022:

As Chris Rainger reminded us at last year's AGM, we have had a remarkable 10 years in existence and have arranged the most amazing array of events, talks, walks, conferences, displays and exhibitions. The programme for 2022 is simply a continuation of outstanding effort on the part of so many to share the history and heritage of the Fulford, Fishergate and Heslington areas of York. I can do no better than give a summary of each month.

In 2022 we began a tentative re-start of our monthly meetings but had to postpone the January talk because there was a resurgence of Covid. However, from then on, we managed to meet regularly, starting off in Heslington Church on Saturday 19 February with an illustrated talk by John Wright titled ***The Birth, Life and Death of a Squadron. The 77 Squadron at Elvington Airfield and other Airbases.*** It was a glimpse into the lives of 'those young men and their flying machines' whose skill, courage and camaraderie were invaluable during World War II.





Our 10th AGM was held on Saturday 26 March in St Oswald's Church Hall when there were displays and a wonderful slide show compiled by Chris Rainger of our many activities and events in our first decade. We had a chance to reminisce about our favourite event and to be reminded of ALL the talks, walks, exhibitions, conferences and social gatherings we had arranged, in addition to many publications, booklets and walking trail leaflets. We should do this more often!

On Saturday 30 April, we had a splendid talk by Helen Hayton about the **250 Years of Education in Fulford**, their commemorative events and new publication, *A Celebration of Learning*. Helen reminded us that there had been a small 'petty' or 'dame' school in Fulford from 1743 but in 1771, the new manor lord, John Key founded a school which offered free places to local children from poor families; and this evolved into St Oswald's CE Primary School..

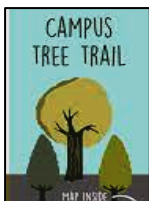


On a balmy evening Tuesday 10 May, Lauren Grindley introduced us to '**Rights of Ways**. *Our right to roam over land that is owned by someone else*. She led us around Fulford Village using the back lanes and small, narrow, occasionally muddy, pathways which qualified as 'open access land...and in continuous and uninterrupted use for at least 20 years'. It was a VERY engaging talk and walk.

Our Festival of Ideas Event on Saturday 18 June featured a presentation by Chris Rainger about the **Fulford Grange Estate** which was owned by York merchants and bankers who developed the open fields into an landed gentry estate with stately villa with stables, coach-house, gardeners cottage, greenhouses and extensive kitchen garden and orchards. His accompanying book is full of fascinating details, maps and illustrations.



Chris followed this up with a **walking tour** on Tuesday evening 21 June around the former Estate when he pointed out both former features of the house and grounds, as well as the architectural details on the terraced housing, which was much more various than at first glance.



We took a **Tree Walk around the University of York Campus** with Peter Mott on Saturday afternoon 16 July. It was a lovely day and the campus is full of beautiful and large trees. We were given clues to help identify them and to note whether or not they were native British trees. The overwhelming impression is that the campus is a green and pleasant place with delightful water features, wildfowl on our doorstep.

Our stall for Fulford Show on Bank Holiday Monday, 29 August caught the eye of many wandering around the stalls. Several people sat down to read through some of the archival folders compiled by Judy Nicholson and asked many questions of her and other helpers on the stall. We look forward to next year on the field.



Louise Wheatley presented a long, illustrated talk about the process of producing **Flax from Field to Fibre to Fabric** on Saturday 24 September. She felt that to understanding WHY our local 19th century flax mill and bleaching field went bankrupt required understanding the long, laborious and labour-intensive work needed to grow and process flax into a fibre suitable for spinning; and then to weave into cloth and then to wash and bleach before it could be sold or sewn into garments.

On Saturday 15 October Judy Nicholson and Barbara King gave an illustrated talk about their current research into the history of **Fulford Field House and the Armstrong Family Schools**. They had compiled a book with rare photographs and other information provided by a descendant of the Armstrong family which provided a personal and poignant glimpse into life in the past.



Our next talk was by Glennis Whyte on Saturday 19 November with the intriguing title, '**The Determined Women of Minster Yard**'. Using a variety of sources and illustrations, she revealed the amazing story 'of the lives of three single 18th century York women who live in or near to the Treasurer's House. All were determined to forge their own path in science and the arts, no matter how hard that would be.'

We ended the year with our **FIRST SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER in THREE YEARS** on Sunday 11 December and this was a wonderful occasion to meet with new and 'old' friends. Thank you to everyone who contributed food, raffle prizes and a challenging quiz which we hope to repeat at a later date.



RESEARCH, WEBSITE AND OTHER PROJECTS TO DATE

In his Chairman's Report for 2021, Chris Rainger drew attention to the various research projects that were carried out during lockdown for future talks, booklets and articles for the website.

- Charles Patmore has researched and written what may be the first article about the Gardens of Heslington Hall. He has called it **History Trails from Heslington Hall Gardens** and he carefully examines the origins, designs and historical context of the Yew Garden and puzzles about the date and their shapes. He also takes us through the Walled Garden, Quiet Place, Orangery and the 'Mughal-style Reflecting Pool'. The study includes the Boating Lake and Bowling Green, and draws our attention to a hidden gateway, and to the sad losses of a sundial and statue of Hermes. Fascinating.
- Inspired by Charles's article, Chris Rainger felt compelled to add a website page on the history of Heslington Hall: **A History of Heslington Hall and its Owners**. He has uncovered unpublished work that shed light on the original design of the house and the modifications over the years and has obtained permission to include an 18th century painting that shows the hall and its gardens, including the original Hesketh Almshouses. Moreover, he links to documents and images that are not readily available and which can be downloaded.
- Chris Rainger has also been busy getting information together about the **Progress of Henry VIII through Fulford in 1541** when he met the York Civic Party at Fulford Cross.
- Lauren Grindley is continuing her research into **Rights of Way** and, also, into the 18th century **enclosures of the open fields**, a complicated subject but one essential for understanding landscape and settlement then and now. We look forward to hearing about this in due course.
- Judy Nicholson and Barbara King have been giving talks to various groups in York and further afield on the **Cattle Market and the Barracks**, and are preparing a talk on **Naburn Lock** for us in October. They are also carrying out family history research for various families and also **compiling information about several Fulford houses and their owners**: The Plough, The White House and Gate Fulford Hall. They have also been looking at **deeds for land in Heslington** and discovered old names for fields and paths, old customs such as presenting a straw when returning land to the manor lord and other oddities – to feature in future talks and booklets.
- Louise Wheatley has not yet finished her research into the '**Yeomen Farmers in Fulford**' nor has she finished a study of the **Dilwood family** who lived in Fulford from about 1560 to 1600; nor the turmoil over tithes in the parish; nor the development of **Lady Well Close**; nor the **development of Fishgate**. BUT all are underway and lots of information has been gathered from wills, property deeds and tithe awards and court cases have been deciphered. What is almost finished is an **exhibition of medieval illustrations of food and farming** which will be on display at our Festival of Ideas Conference on Saturday 10 June 2023. The images are general illustrations but also attempt to illustrate some of the details of life that are found in the manor court records.
- Allan Francis continues his research into the **lost village of Water Fulford** and the elusive John and Ellis Key's (absentee lords of the manor of Fulford).

If I have left anyone out, please let me know and I will add your research topics to a supplementary Chair's Report!

AGAIN, thank you to everyone for taking a keen interest in our history and heritage.

Louise R Wheatley (chair)
16 February 2023